

minimum fixed pension of ₹ 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.

Agitation by farmers in Jammu and Kashmir

1314. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Jammu and Kashmir are agitating for getting fair value and transportation for their premium crops such as apples, saffron, peaches and walnuts grown in the valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for assuring farmers fair value for their premium crops, which reaches all parts of the country by involving NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) No such information has been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No scheme is envisaged involving NABARD, however, Government through Central Nodal Agency *i.e.* NAFED is procuring apples from willing apple growers in Jammu and Kashmir at remunerative prices fixed by Designated Price Committees, by exempting the provisions contained in the extant guidelines of Market Intervention Scheme as a one-time measure.

Unequal use of fertilizers and pesticides

1315. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is unequal use of fertilizers and pesticides in different parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this unequal use of fertilizers and pesticides is due to any unavoidable skewed programming, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there are any discrepancies in the use of fertilizers in some regions of the country on the basis of chemical ratios, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) Consumption of fertilisers depends on several factors like gross cropped area, availability of irrigation, cropping pattern, affordability etc. As against the all India per ha consumption of 133 kg during the year 2018-19, the consumption is comparatively higher in Telengana (245.29 kg/ha). Punjab (224.49 kg/ha) & Haryana (224.46 kg/ha) and on the lower side in Kerala (36.38 kg/ha), Rajasthan (60.753 kg/ha). Odisha (70.59 kg./ha), Jharkhand (59.70 kg/ha), Himachal Pradesh (63.32 kg/ha) etc. In some States like Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand. a deviation from the ideal NPK ratio has been observed which may be attributed to specific local requirement as per the cropping pattern and soil health. However. Government of India is promoting soil test based Integrated Nutrient Management for balanced and judicious use of fertiliser through Soil Health Card Scheme since 2014-15. Soil Health Cards provide crop-wise recommendation on appropriate dosage of fertilisers to be applied.

Pesticide use depends on several factors like area under cultivation, type of crop, crop intensity, agro climatic conditions, soil condition, pest situation etc. which can differ from State to State. Government of India is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach through 35 Nos. of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the country by conducting of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), 2 days and 5 days Human Resource Development programmes. These Central IPM centres educate the farmers about judicious use of chemical pesticides and recommend the use as per the directions prescribed on the label claim and leaflets.

Making 'PMFBY' more simpler and useful for farmers

1316. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to make Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) more simpler and useful for farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?